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Soviets: 'Impudent, Slanderous,' 'Dirty Insinuations'

MOSCOW, Sept. 2 (AP)—The text of the Soviet Union's statement about the reported attack on the Korean Air Lines plane, issued today by the official news agency Tass:

As it has already been reported, on the night from Aug. 31 to Sept. 1 this year, an unidentified plane had rudely violated the Soviet state border, and intruded deep into the Soviet Union's air space. The intruder plane had deviated from the existing international route in the direction of the Soviet Union's territory by up to 500 kilometers [310 miles] and spent more than two hours over the Kamchatka Peninsula, the area of the Sea of Okhotsk and the island of Sakhalin.

In violation of international regulations, the plane flew without navigation lights, did not react to radio signals of the Soviet dispatcher services and made no attempts to establish such communications contact.

It was natural that, during the time the unidentified intruder plane was in the U.S.S.R. air space, Soviet anti-air defense aircraft were ordered aloft which repeatedly tried to establish contacts with the plane using generally accepted signals and to take it to the nearest airfield in the territory of the Soviet Union. The intruder plane, however, ignored all this. Over the Sakhalin Island, a Soviet aircraft fired warning shots and tracer shells along the flying route of the plane.

Soon after this, the intruder plane left the limits of Soviet air space and continued its flight toward the Sea of Japan. For about 10 minutes it was within the observation zone of radio location means, after which it could be observed no more.

Now a hullabaloo has been raised in the U.S.A. and some other countries around the disappearance of a South Korean plane-carrying out a flight from New York to Seoul.

One's attention is drawn to the fact that, already in the first report about this, reference was made to the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency. Further reports emanating from the United States provide increasingly more grounds to consider that the itinerary and the nature of the flight were not accidental. It is indicative that now, post factum, the American side not only officially admits the fact of that plane's violation of Soviet air space, but also cites data which indicate that the relevant U.S. services followed the flight throughout its duration in the most attentive manner.

So one may ask that if it were an ordinary flight of a civil aircraft which was under continuous observation, then why were there not taken any steps from the American side to end the gross violation of the air space of the U.S.S.R. and to get the plane back to an international flight route?

Why [did] the American authorities, [who] now resort to all kinds of dirty insinuations about the U.S.S.R., not try to establish contact with the Soviet side and

provide it with the necessary data about this flight? Neither was done, although there was more than ample time for this.

It is appropriate to recall that instances of deliberate violation of the state frontiers of the Soviet Union by American planes, including in the Far East, are far from rare. Protests have repeatedly been lodged with the U.S. government over that matter.

In the light of these facts the intrusion into the air space by the mentioned plane cannot be regarded in any other way than a preplanned act. It was obviously thought possible to attain special intelligence aims without hindrance using civilian planes as a cover.

More than that, there is reason to believe that those who organized this provocation had deliberately desired a further aggravation of the international situation, striving to smear the Soviet Union, to sow hostility to it and to cast aspersions on the Soviet peace-loving policy.

This is illustrated also by the impudent, slanderous statement in respect [to] the Soviet Union that was instantly made by President Reagan of the United States.

Tass is authorized to state that, in the leading circles of the Soviet Union, regret is expressed over the loss of human life and at the same time a resolute condemnation of those who consciously or as a result of criminal disregard have allowed the death of people and are now trying to use this occurrence for unseemly political aims.